

The Courtauld

Statement on Research Integrity, 2020-21

Context

1. As an institution eligible to receive research funding administered through Research England, The Courtauld is required to have procedures governing good research practice in place that adhere to the requirements set out in the Concordat to Support Research Integrity (2019) and UKRI's relevant policies and guidance. Our policies and procedures for the investigation and reporting of unacceptable research conduct must also adhere to these standards.
2. This short annual statement has been designed to meet The Courtauld's obligations in relation to Commitment 5 of the Concordat to Support Research Integrity. It includes a summary of recent actions and activities intended to support understanding and application of research integrity issues, a reflection on existing Courtauld policies and procedures, and a report on formal investigations into research misconduct. These issues are framed within the context of The Courtauld's wider research environment.

Research Integrity and The Courtauld

3. The Courtauld's policy covering issues of research ethics and integrity applies equally to Courtauld staff and students conducting research at any level and to any other person (regardless of their status) engaged in research under the auspices of The Courtauld or on behalf of or in association with The Courtauld. The current version of the policy is available online [here](#).
4. Eight core principles are described in the policy and expected of researchers affiliated to The Courtauld: integrity, honesty, openness, confidentiality, voluntary participation [by research participants], avoidance of harm, independence and impartiality, and cultural sensitivity. This is not, however, an exhaustive list.
5. Our Ethics Policy is designed to complement the ethical standards or codes of practice issued by relevant professional bodies which are specific to the discipline, such as those issued by the Museums Association. Periodic review of the policy is the responsibility of the Research Committee.
6. Researchers are reminded of their responsibilities to work according to the Research Ethics policy and all related professional standards via a combination of individual and collective inductions when joining The Courtauld, the annual staff appraisal process, and regular research review meetings held between members of faculty, the Head of Research, and the Research Manager.
7. In 2020-21, a particular focus has been on improved standards for conducting academic interviews and ensuring informed subject consent in line with GDPR obligations. The Courtauld is also now represented at the London Research Integrity Consortium by the Research Manager.

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Reflection on Current Policies and Ambitions for 2021-22

8. We are confident that the policies and procedures governing research at The Courtauld are appropriate in the context of our small, specialist institute. The close working relationship that staff and students are able to develop with the Head of Research and Research Manager due to our size, and our culture of regular individual meetings to discuss research, are both important factors as we endeavour to create a research environment in which all members of our community feel comfortable to report instances of potential misconduct.
9. We are however dedicated to ensuring that our Research Ethics and Integrity Policy adheres to sector best practice in all aspects. With this ambition in mind, we commit to carrying out a full periodic review of all aspects of our policies and procedures in this area by the end of Spring term 2022, with a view to implementing a fully updated and revised set of policies by the start of the academic year 2022-23.
10. This will entail a review of existing policy and our processes for reporting and investigation of complaints of research misconduct, along with full consideration of how guidance for researchers and communication of their obligations under our Research Ethics and Integrity Policy can best be embedded across the organisation. The review will be led by the Head of Research and supported by the Research Manager and Research Committee. Recommendations will be presented to Academic Board in Summer term 2022.

Formal Investigations of Research Misconduct

11. No formal investigations of research misconduct have been carried out in 2020-21.
12. High-level reporting on any future formal investigations of research misconduct will be included in the relevant annual statement. In the event that formal investigations are required, the statement will also provide details of lessons learned from the investigation process and any actions taken to prevent reoccurrence of similar incidents.